

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Voice messages are downloaded from a voice messaging server to a handheld computing device where the voice messages may be reviewed and acted upon. The voice messages may first be converted from the file format native to the voice messaging server into a compressed data format. The result of the compression, a message file, may include a compressed audio portion and an information portion, which includes details associated with the message such as calling line ID and time of day. In one scheme, the compression is performed at the voice messaging server and the message files are downloaded to the handheld over a wireless connection. In another scheme, compression may be performed at a desktop PC which has downloaded voice messages from the voice messaging server. A connection between the handheld and the desktop PC allows a transfer of the message files to the handheld computing device. Once the message files are stored on the handheld computing device, a voice message interface application executed by the handheld computing device allows text details associated with the voice message to be displayed. The audio portion of the message files may be reviewed using audio playback capabilities that are standard on many handheld computing devices.

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